(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the major problems faced by the small scale Industries in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to motivate the nationalised banks to extend help to the small scale industries and to remove the sickness?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the data collected by the Reserve Bank of India from the Scheduled commercial banks, the total number of sick small scale industrial units has decreased from 2,68,815 at the end of March, 1995 to 2,62,376 at the end of March,1996.

(c) The major problems faced by the Small Scale industries are:

i) Limited Financial resources;

ii) Lack of organisation, financial and management skills:

iii) Lack of developed infrastructure;

iv) Delayed and inadequate credit;

v) Delayed payments by large industries;

vi) Difficulties in marketing;

viii) Difficulties in the availability of raw materials and other inputs including power.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks on various aspects of finance to SSI sector. Banks have been advised to provide working capital credit limits to the SSIs computed on the basis of a minimum of 20% of their projected annual turnover for the SSIs having aggregate fund-based working capital credit limit upto Rs.1 crore. RBI has recently, decided to raise the limit to Rs.2 crores. Small Industries Development Bank of India has been operating Single Window Scheme since its inception under which the composite assistance for fixed assets and working capital is extended to units in SSI sector by the same agency. The scheme is operated by State Financial Corporations, Small Industries Development Corporations and scheduled commercial banks. With a view to ensure that the disbursement of credit is not delayed, banks have been instructed to adhere to the time limit for disposal of application. While applications upto a credit limit of 25000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight, those for over Rs. 25000/- should be disposed within 8 to 9 weeks from the date of receipt. Requests for increase in limits should be considered expeditiously and decision should be taken promptly in any case within six weeks.

To tackle the problem of sickness, Nayak Committee had made several recommendations and accordingly, RBI has advised banks on modified definition of sick SSI units, reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres and head office to deal with sick industrial units and provision of export staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects.

[English]

Green Channel Facility

5491. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms prescribed by the Government for trading house, star trading house, and super star house for clearance of their import and export consignments during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to grant the green channel facility to companies of holding the status of an export/trading/star trading or super star trading house;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (b) The facility of clearance of import and export consignments under the green channel is available to Trading House, Star trading house and super star trading houses. Under the Scheme, the examination of 100% of the consignment is waived and only some selected consignments are examined. Other facilities include:

(i) *Assessment of B/E:* Separate Group No.7A created to assess B/E(whether imported under DEEC or otherwise) regarding import made by SSTH/STH/TH.

(ii) *Examination:* Green Channel facility for export examination (random checks) extended.

(iii) *Destuffing & Examination at Party's premises:* Facility extended only if SSTH/STH/TH is a manufacturer importer, the goods are FCL and moved under customs' seal from port to party's factory.

There is no proposal at present to extend green channel facility to export houses.

Chief Controller of Import and Export

5492. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the Office of Chief Controller of Import and Export under the control of Ministry of Finance;